

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 31-35 have been added. Please cancel claims 20-25 without prejudice.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 20 should end with a period instead of a semi-colon. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 has been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the objection to claim 20 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,595 of Puchek et al. ("Puchek") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,853 of Gravlin ("Gravlin"). Applicants respectfully submit that the combination does not disclose or suggest each and every element as claimed.

Puchek discloses a biometric access control system that allows for a person to be allowed access to a controlled area. (See Puchek, column 7, lines 40-55). The biometric control system serves to collect identification data during an enrollment procedure, and can be of any type, such as a finger-print scanner, a camera for sensing facial parameters, a retinal scanner, or the like. (See Puchek, column 6, lines 30-34).

Gravlin relates to the monitoring and control of a building automation system ("BAS") via Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol ("TCP/IP") connections. The BAS is a system that controls any or all of the environmental aspects of a facility including, but not limited to, lighting, HVAC, and security. (See Gravlin, column 1, lines 6-64). Furthermore, Gravlin discloses an interface panel generated on a display of a

client, that an authorized user can monitor, control, configure and interact with the BAS through its links or embedded HTML server using a mouse or other convenient input device to “select” the push buttons or other interface panel devices. (See Gravlin, column 2, lines 50-55).

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination does not disclose or suggest the elements of or elements similar to **“a web-based interface configured to allow co-located members to schedule visits to the facility through the Internet,”** as recited in claims 1, 11, and 26. Under current co-location security systems, members are unable to schedule visitor access to the facility through a user interface connection to the World Wide Web. If the Examiner is taking Official Notice of the missing element, Applicants respectfully object to such Official Notice and request the Examiner cite a reference in support of this position.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination does not teach each and every element as recited in claims 1, 11, and 26. Claims 2-3, 6, 20-21, 23-24 and 27-29 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on at least one of the claims 1, 11, and 26. Applicants do not concede that claims 20, 21, 23 and 24 are not patentable based on the rejections and reserve their rights to file a continuation application containing such claims should Applicants so desire. Nonetheless, Applicants respectfully request claims 20, 21, 23 and 24 be cancelled, without prejudice, in order to obtain allowance of the remaining pending claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claims 1-3, 6, 20-21, 23-24 and 26-29 under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5, 7-10, 22, 25 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puchek et al. in view of Gravlin and further in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. US20020029349 of Daigneault et al. (“Daigneault”).

As articulated above, claims 1, 11, and 26 are patentable over Puchek in view of Gravlin. Daigneault fails to cure the underlying deficiency of Puchek in view of Gravlin, including the failure to disclose **“a web-based interface configured to allow co-located members to schedule visits to the facility through the Internet,”** as recited in claims 1, 11, and 26. Claims 4, 5, 6-10, 22, 25 and 30 are dependent on one of the claims 1, 11, and 26, and therefore are patentable at least for the reasons stated above. Applicants do not concede that claims 22 and 25 are not patentable based on the rejections and reserve their rights to file a continuation application containing such claims should Applicants so desire. Nonetheless, Applicants respectfully request claims 22 and 25 be cancelled, without prejudice, in order to obtain allowance of the remaining pending claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claims 4, 5, 6-10, 22, 25 and 30 under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puchek et al. in view of of Gravlin and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,903,225 of Schmitt. (“Schmitt”).

As articulated above, claim 11 is patentable over Puchek in view of Gravlin. Schmitt fails to cure the underlying deficiency of Puchek in view of Gravlin, including the failure to disclose **“a web-based interface configured to allow co-located members to schedule visits to the facility through the Internet,”** as recited in claim 11. Claims 12-18 are dependent on claim 11 (directly or indirectly), and therefore are patentable at

least for the reasons stated above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claims 11-18 under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puchek et al. in view of Gravlin and further in view of Schmitt. and further in view of Daigneault et al..

As articulated above, claim 11 is patentable over Puchek in view of Gravlin. Schmitt and Daigneault fail to cure the underlying deficiency of Puchek in view of Gravlin, including the failure to disclose **“a web-based interface configured to allow co-located members to schedule visits to the facility through the Internet,”** as recited in claim 11. Claim 19 is dependent on claim 11 (directly or indirectly), and therefore is patentable at least for the reasons stated above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claim 19 under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

New claims 31-35

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 31-35 include elements not disclosed in the combination of Puchek and Gravlin. Specifically, the combination does not disclose a method of allowing a visitor to schedule visits to a designated area within a facility and to allow someone (e.g., a co-located member of a company) that owns equipment (e.g., network equipment stored in a cage within the facility) to track the movements of the visitor (authorized or unauthorized) over a web-based user interface. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that claims 31-35 are patentable over the combination.

CONCLUSION

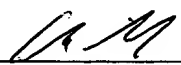
Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendments and remarks, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: July 27, 2004



André Gibbs
Reg. No. 47,593

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300